

DELAY) and myself, which has strengthened the core and local sponsor role in giving the local sponsor a greater responsibility.

Recently, the local sponsor, the Harris County, Texas, Commissioners Court, approved the Brays redesign per the WRDA 1996 Act, and now this project can move forward with strong public support.

I am also gratified the subcommittee decided to fully fund the Sims Bayou project at \$11.8 million. This is a project that also affects an area of southeastern Harris County that is heavily residential. This project is 2 years ahead of schedule. It is about midstream right now, scheduled to be completed in 2004. It is critically important to a number of my constituents who live in areas that are otherwise ravaged by continual flooding.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am gratified that the committee chose to fully fund the request for the Houston Ship Channel deepening and widening project. This is the largest deepening and widening project that the Corps of Engineers has been involved in since the Panama Canal. It is important to the local economy that I and my colleagues in the Houston area represent. It is also being done in a very environmentally sound manner in reestablishing natural habitat throughout the Galveston Bay.

I appreciate the fact that the committee has kept this project on track and fully funded the administration's request.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

(Mr. LARSON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY) for his outstanding work, and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), as well.

I would note to my colleagues that victory has many fathers, and defeat, of course, is an orphan. But defeat is not an option, especially for those who are dependent upon home heating oil and have to make the awful choice between heating their homes, providing themselves with prescription drugs that they need, or in fact the food that they place on their table.

Mr. Speaker, I associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACCIO) who spoke eloquently about the coalition of those of us in the Northeast who have sought bipartisan support, especially in the area of the release of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the establishment of a strategic home heating oil fuel base for those who need this kind of relief.

I further concur with the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KIL-

PATRICK) about the need for the Federal Trade Commission to further pursue these companies with respect to what seems to be gouging at the gas lines.

Further, I would also note that there is an important need for an investment that is not addressed in this legislation. We currently import somewhere in the area of \$5 billion worth of oil a month. That is \$60 billion a year. We are making cuts in the very area of research and development, specifically in the area of fuel cells, that could benefit us and allow us to compete in a global economy, and get us to a point where we are not dependent upon foreign sources of oil, so we can provide ourselves with efficient home heating oil and the means to provide us with transportation to and from our jobs.

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Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the specific rule to permit an amendment on the floor offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHERWOOD), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) authorizing the establishment of a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. Not only do we need to pass this rule, but what we really need to do is to appropriate funding for the creation of a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing an energy crisis in this country. The price of gasoline is skyrocketing. In the Midwest and other parts of the country, the price of a gallon of gas is now over \$2 a gallon. Throughout the rest of the country, including my State of Vermont, it is well over \$1.50 a gallon, and that is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, the price of crude oil has more than tripled since last year and is the highest it has been since the Gulf War. The reason the prices are high is because the supply for gasoline is low. This can only mean one thing. If we do not adequately prepare for next winter, we will have a home heating oil disaster on our hands.

But my colleagues do not have to take my word for it. I quote from an article that appeared in USA Today just yesterday: "Those who heat with oil will shiver this winter and pay a premium. Just 15.3 million barrels of heating oil are stockpiled for the East Coast, which uses 75 percent of the Nation's heating oil in the winter. That's well down from 41.3 million barrels on hand last June."

Mr. Speaker, we all know what happened last year. Home heating oil prices were the highest they have ever been in history. And now we are faced with a home heating oil stockpile that is 37 percent lower than last year. It does not take a genius to figure out that we are setting ourselves up for a

huge heating oil crisis next year unless Congress acts now.

According to Bill O'Grady, oil analyst at A.G. Edwards & Sons, "If we have a cold winter early, we could end up seeing in heating oil what we're seeing in gas prices in spades."

Mr. Speaker, we must not let this happen. We must make certain that the huge increase in home heating oil prices that we experienced last winter never happens again. Too many people were hurt by that huge increase in home heating oil prices. The astronomical prices that our constituents were forced to pay for home heating oil in order to stay warm last winter was unconscionable. Let us unite behind the creation of a Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve, and let us make sure that we have adequate funding to guarantee that it is up and running as soon as possible.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4733, and that I may be permitted to include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING LIMITATION OF AMENDMENTS DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4733, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise all Members that we are working on a unanimous consent request to bring about a time agreement on all amendments to the bill. Any Members who have not yet contacted us regarding possible amendments should do so as soon as possible so that we can protect their right to offer amendments. Otherwise, we will be asking for unanimous consent that the amendments that have now been submitted will be the only amendments that will be considered.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 532 and rule